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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,575	03/29/2004	Mark Grandin	GRAN-01	2081
30568	7590	12/13/2004	EXAMINER	
MARY J. GASKIN ANNELIN & GASKIN 2170 BUCKTHORNE PL. SUITE 220 THE WOODLANDS, TX 77380			GRAHAM, MARK S	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3711		
DATE MAILED: 12/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/811,575	Applicant(s)	GRANDIN, MARK
Examiner	Mark S. Graham	Art Unit	3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-14 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 7 and 15 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/29/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.
Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20041209

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zownir. Zownir discloses the claimed structure and may be used in the same way and for the same purpose.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zownir in view of Davis et al. (Davis). Zownir discloses the claimed device with the exception of the grooves/splines. However, such are commonly known for the purpose of sliding one element onto another. Davis shows one example as can be seen in Figs. 7 and 8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such on Zownir's cap as well to make it easier to slide onto the cue.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuo. Kuo discloses the claimed device with the exception of the sleeve (cane 1 in Kuo) being cylindrical. However, the examiner takes official notice that cylindrical canes are commonly known. It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art to have used a cylindrical cane casing for Kuo's element 1 as well if such a cane design were desired.

With regard to claim 6, Kuo uses a stud threaded on both ends. However, threaded fasteners with heads are also commonly known and would have been suitable for Kuo's purpose and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such as Kuo's fastener as well if such were more readily available to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

Concerning claim 11, element 12 may be considered the outer sleeve.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuo in view of Davis. Kuo discloses the claimed device with the exception of the grooves/splines. However, such are commonly known for the purpose of sliding one element onto another. Davis shows one example as can be seen in Figs. 7 and 8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such on Kuo's device as well to make it easier to slide over and rest on the cue.

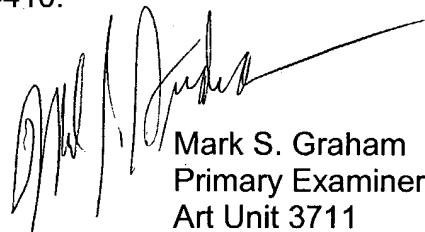
Claims 7 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Costain, Parsons, Barber, Atkins, Verona, and Johnson have been cited for interest because they disclose similar devices.

Art Unit: 3711

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Mark S. Graham at telephone number 571-272-4410.

MSG
12/9/04



Mark S. Graham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711